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Mint of the United States,
June 22d, 1838.

Sir,

A letter received by me yesterday, from David Bradford, Esq., Superintendent of the Branch Mint at New Orleans, contains the following communications, with regard to which I do not feel authorized to act without your instructions, or at least your approbation.

"I must submit, at this time," (says Mr. Bradford,) "a few matters on which I wish to have your early instructions. Mr. Tyler [the Coiner] will have to go to Philadelphia for his family this summer, and, from the fact that the yellow fever is prevailing in Havana, it is generally apprehended we shall not escape, and it would probably be for the interest of the public service that the Officers and workmen should have leave of absence from the latter part of July to the beginning of November. The Treasurer and Assayer being acclimated intend remaining at all events, and we think the public service would not be incommoded, as deposits could be received, and certificates given for them as is now done".

Mr. Bradford afterwards adds:— "I am desirous of being informed how far I may be authorised

to exercise my discretion in granting leave of absence to the other officers, and to the workmen; and, as I expect to send my family to the neighbourhood of St. Francisville, by the 1st of August, whether I might not accompany them, substituting in my place the Treasurers in my absence".

On the subject of this Communication, I have to state that there was an understanding on the part of the officers and men who went from here, that they should not be required to remain at New Orleans during the first Summer. Gen. Gordon, and all other Citizens of New Orleans whom I consulted, said that to do so would be very dangerous; and, indeed, without the prospect of leave of absence at the first sickly season, no officers or men could have been induced to go on from the North. I therefore agree in the representations and request made by Mr. Bradford, and join in asking that the leave of absence asked may have your approbation.

During the prevalence of the yellow fever in this city, the operations of the Mint were always suspended; and the men were put on half pay. I would propose the same course, for the New Orleans Mint, for the approaching sickly season; with the condition, however, that the half pay should be allowed only to those men who return to the Mint when recalled, and who enter into contract to continue in the Mint throughout that season.

if required.

It will probably not be necessary to extend this indulgence beyond the present summer. After that, it is believed that the risk will be much diminished, and that the officers and men may be required to keep their places as acclimated citizens.

Very respectfully,

Your faithful servant,

R. M. Patterson,
Director.

To,

Hon. Levi Woodbury, }
Secy of Treasury.

Accept of leave it to him to

exam a demed decision

over the whole subject

revolve all the circumstances

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